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### UM conference presents research on asbestos-related diseases

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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June 10, 2002

**Contact:** Andrij Holian, director, UM Center for Environmental Health Sciences, (406) 243-4018.

### **UM CONFERENCE PRESENTS RESEARCH ON ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASES**

#### **MISSOULA --**

The University of Montana Center for Environmental Health Sciences will hold a conference in Missoula June 24-25 designed to present cutting-edge research on all aspects of asbestos-related diseases.

The conference, "New Directions and Needs in Asbestos Research," features national and international asbestos experts who will lead four scientific sessions followed by panel discussions. The sessions and panel discussions run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. Lunch will be provided.

Ken Olden, director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, will give the keynote address.

"This conference will be the first in Montana that will be directed to improving our understanding of the mechanisms of asbestos-related diseases with a focus on the unique form of asbestos associated with the mine in Libby," said Andrij Holian, director of the center.

"The results of this conference will help focus research in order to expedite biomedical research aimed at these lung diseases."

The conference begins Monday morning with an overview of asbestos-related health and epidemiologic issues that stem from investigations of exposure in Libby, where

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vermiculite was mined from 1923 until 1990. Presenters and panel members then will delve into the mechanisms of chronic disease development and the use of genomic approaches in asbestos research.

Sessions close Tuesday afternoon with a summary of conference recommendations for new directions and needs in asbestos research.

Conference registration fees are \$175 for the general public, \$75 for post-doctoral investigators and students, and \$35 for UM faculty and staff. Information about special rates for lodging in Missoula for those who attend the conference is available. A full list of presenters is online at [www.umt.edu/cehs/brochure.htm](http://www.umt.edu/cehs/brochure.htm). For more information or to register, call (406) 243-4048 or e-mail [pgajones@selway.umt.edu](mailto:pgajones@selway.umt.edu).

The conference is co-sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the National Science Foundation-EPSCoR.

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Local, Dailies and Weeklies  
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